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International patent application PCT/IB03/02184
GSP reception attenuation with excistence of other transmission

In response to the Written Opinion dated April 6, 2005, a new set of claims is submitted, which is to replace the originally filed set of claims. More specifically, a clean version and a version showing the carried out amendments is submitted.

It is respectfully requested that the examination is continued based on the new set of claims and under consideration of the following comments.

I. Pending claims

Independent device claim 1 is based on original independent claim 1, which was clarified with the indication that the attenuation is to be sufficient to prevent an evaluation in case the transmission power of the transmitter is too high. Original disclosure for this amendment can be found on page 24, last sentence of the description.

Dependent claims 2 to 16 remain unchanged.

Dependent claim 17 was added. The original disclosure for the mentioned evaluation means (RF back end and DSP processing block 14) can be found in the paragraph connecting pages 23 and 24 and in the last paragraph of page 24. In addition, the sentence connecting pages 10 and 11 speaks in general terms of an evaluation of received signals.

Independent claim 18 is directed at a component comprising as an obligatory part only the controlling portion of claim 1. It is indicated on page 13, 5th paragraph to page 14, 1st paragraph that the controlling portion can be for example implemented in an AGC component. It also becomes apparent from this passage, that the controlling portion could be implemented in other components. It is indicated for example that it can be a part of a transmitter or of a receiver section of a device.

Independent method claim 19 is based on original independent claim 17, which was amended in accordance with the amendment in claim 1.

Dependent claims 20 to 29 correspond to original claims 18 to 27.

Dependent claim 30 was added. It comprises an evaluation in accordance with added claim 17.

II. Subject matter of the claims

The application includes a claim 1, which is directed at a device with the following features:

1 A communication system transmitter for transmitting signals via a radio interface in a first frequency band.
2 A receiver for receiving signals via a radio interface in a second frequency band.
  2.1 The receiver includes an attenuation component for attenuating signals received by said receiver.
3 A controlling portion
  3.1 setting an attenuation which is applied by said attenuating component to signals received by said receiver to a higher value in case said communication system transmitter is transmitting signals with a power level exceeding a certain value, and
  3.2 setting an attenuation which is applied by said attenuating component to signals received by said receiver to a lower value in case no signal is transmitted by said communication system transmitter.
  3.3 Said higher value is sufficiently high to prevent an evaluation of said attenuated received signals, when said attenuation is set to said higher value.

It is an object of the invention to provide an alternative to existing solutions for improving the performance of a receiver during the transmissions of a communication system transmitter, which is implemented in the same device as the receiver. (page 8, last paragraph)

The invention ensures that in those cases, in which an evaluation of received signals can be assumed to result in an error due to disturbing signals transmitted by the transmitter, the received signal is attenuated for preventing an evaluation.

The application further includes a claim 18 directed at a component comprising such a controlling portion and a claim 19 directed at a corresponding method.

III. Cited prior art

The examiner cites two documents for supporting his opinion that the claims are not novel or not based on an inventive step:

US 6,442,375 B1 (D1)
This document relates to maintaining operation of a receiver co-located with a transmitter and susceptible to interference therefrom by desensitization of the receiver. (Title)

It is proposed that the operation of a GPS receiver 42 is maintained by using an AGC control logic 56 that is responsive to a TDMA radio signal that is transmitted by a cellular transceiver. The AGC control logic identifies the beginning of the transmit interval and generates a control signal which is applied to an AGC module 52 to preserve the gain value (i.e. prevents the gain value from being reduced) that is applied to the input signal of the GPS receiver 42 through a multiplier 54. Outside of a transmit interval, the AGC control logic allows the AGC module 52 to adjust the gain applied in accordance with the strength of the GPS signal. (Fig. 2, col. 5, line 63 to col. 6, line 18)

EP 1 079 533 A1 (D2)
This document relates to a multiple communication device of the type with parallel operation. The device comprises a first subunit receiving input signals at a predetermined input level. The device further comprises a second subunit transmitting output signals at a specific time frequency and output level such that the output level is very large compared to the input level of the first subunit. It is proposed that the operation mode of the first subunit is modified when the second subunit is transmitting output signals (claim 1) The input characteristics of the first subunit may be modified by an operation mode modification unit through a low noise amplifier (LNA) having at least two

operation modes, and/or a tunable filter and/or a switchable receiver and/or an antenna with tunable gain (claims 3/4).

It is indicated to be an object to maintain the first receiving sub-system fully operational for all operation modes of the second transmitting sub-system. [0033]

With reference to Figure 7, a multiple standard communication device 24 comprising such a first subunit 12 (e.g. a GPS receiver) and such a second subunit 14 (e.g. a GSM mobile phone) is described. An operation mode modification unit 34 minimizes the impact of gain compression of the overall noise figure of the first subunit by strong interfering signals from the second subunit present at an LNA input of the first subunit by adjusting the gain of this LNA 36. A gain adjustment or equivalently an increased gain occurs every time a strong interfering signal from the second subunit is present at the low noise amplifier of the first subunit. This is the case when transmission bursts with high output power are generated in the second subunit. [0066]

With reference to Figure 13, a further approach is proposed, in which the antenna characteristics of an antenna 28 of the first subunit are adapted such that the blocking performance of the first subunit is enhanced by shifting the gain characteristic to the right in case of an interfering signal. While such a shift to the right leads to a slight decrease of the Δ_1 for the attenuation at the maximum frequency, a much higher attenuation of Δ_2 may be achieved for out-of-band signals thus enabling a much improved blocking performance. [0095-0096]

IV. Novelty and inventive step

Independent claim 1

The examiner considers the subject matter of claim 1 to be disclosed by document D2.

It is at least not disclosed in document D2, however, that a higher value of an attenuation, which is selected in case the communication system transmitter is transmitting signals with a power level exceeding a certain value, is sufficiently high to prevent an evaluation of the attenuated received signals, as requested by feature 3.3 of claim 1.

Thus, the subject matter of claim 1 is new compared to document D2.

It is an objective problem underlying the invention how to provide an alternative to existing solutions for improving the performance of a receiver during the transmissions of a communication system transmitter, which is implemented in the same device as the receiver. (page 8, last paragraph of the application)

Features 3, 3.1, 3.2 and 3.3 of claim 1 ensure that the attenuation prevents an evaluation of received signals in case the transmission power of the transmitter is too high. Thus, a further evaluation of the received signal is not carried out, whenever the interference is so strong that an evaluation could result in an error.

Document D2 deals with the same phenomenon as the application, namely with the interference occurring at a receiver of a device which is caused by a transmitter of the same device. But the proposed adjustment of the attenuation in document D2 has a quite different purpose. Document D2 aims at keeping up the operation of the GPS receiver even in case of interferences (D2: par. [0033]). This may be achieved for example either by increasing the amplification of a received signal (D2: par. [0066], where a gain adjustment is explicitly indicated to be equivalent to an increased gain) or by slightly detuning the antenna in order to increase the SNR while the transmitter is transmitting.

It is an advantage of preventing an evaluation of received signals as with the features of claim 1, in contrast, that there will be no error resulting in the evaluation due to too much noise (application: page 25, first sentence). Document D2 does not provide a hint at a solution for the case that the interference is so strong compared to the (GPS) signal strength that a sufficient signal improvement cannot be achieved (at least not without an additional notch filter).

Therefore, document D2 was not suited to render the solution of claim 1 obvious to a skilled person.

Document D1 does not provide a hint at this solution either. It explicitly indicates that the gain value of a receiver is to be prevented from being reduced while the transmitter is transmitting (col. 6, lines 1-6).

On the whole, it becomes apparent that the subject matter of claim 1 is new and inventive in view of the cited references.

Claims 18, 19

The features of component claim 18 enable the inventive functions of the features 3, 3.1, 3.2, 3.3 of claim 1, thus the same comments apply as for claim 1. The subject matter of the method of claim 19 corresponds to the subject matter of the device of claim 1, thus the same comments apply. Consequently, also the subject matter of claims 18 and 19 has to be considered to be new and to be based on an inventive step.

Dependent claims

The dependent claims have to be considered to be patentable already due to their reference to a respective new and inventive independent claim.

V. Final comments

Summarized, it has been shown that the subject matter of the claims of the new set of claims is novel and based on an inventive step. It is therefore expected that a positive IPRP can now be issued.

A. Weyres

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Encl.

Amended claims

1. Device (1) comprising:
   - a communication system transmitter (30) for transmitting signals via a radio interface in a first frequency band;
   - a receiver (10) for receiving signals via a radio interface in a second frequency band, said receiver (10) including an attenuation component (13) for attenuating signals received by said receiver (10); and
   - a controlling portion (50) setting an attenuation which is applied by said attenuating component (13) to signals received by said receiver (10) to a higher value in case said communication system transmitter (30) is transmitting signals with a power level exceeding a certain value, and setting an attenuation which is applied by said attenuating component (13) to signals received by said receiver (10) to a lower value in case no signal is transmitted by said communication system transmitter (30), wherein said higher value is sufficiently high to prevent an evaluation of said attenuated received signals, when said attenuation is set to said higher value.

2. Device (1) according to claim 1, wherein said communication system transmitter (30) includes a variable amplifier (32) for amplifying signals which are to be transmitted by said communication system transmitter (30), and wherein said controlling portion (50) sets said attenuation which is applied

by said attenuating component (13) to signals received by said receiver (10) to a value which increases with an increasing amplification factor of an amplification applied by said variable amplifier (32) to signals which are to be transmitted by said communication system transmitter (30).

3. Device according to claim 1 or 2, wherein said device comprises a communication system section including said communication system transmitter and a receiver section including said receiver receiving signals in a second frequency band, and wherein said controlling portion is located in at least one of said communication system section and said receiver section.

4. Device according to claim 3, wherein said controlling portion includes at least a part of a processor provided in said communication system section and at least a part of a processor provided in said receiver section.

5. Device according to one of the preceding claims, wherein said receiver receiving signals in said second frequency band further includes an automatic gain control component, and wherein said controlling portion combines information from said automatic gain control component and information from a communication system section including said communication system transmitter for determining an attenuation to be set.

6. Device (1) according to one of the preceding claims, wherein said controlling portion (13) determines an

attenuation to be set based on at least one of the power level of signals transmitted by said communication system transmitter (30) and the power level of signals received by said receiver receiving signals in said second frequency band.

7. Device (1) according to one of the preceding claims, further comprising a communication system receiver (40) for receiving signals in said first frequency band, wherein said controlling portion (13) determines an attenuation to be set based on the power level of signals received by said communication system receiver (40).

8. Device according to claim 7, wherein said controlling portion determines an attenuation to be set based in addition on the power level of signals received by said receiver receiving signal in said second frequency band.

9. Device (1) according to one of the preceding claims, wherein said attenuating component (13) comprises a variable gain attenuator, and wherein said variable gain attenuator (13) applies at least part of said set attenuation to a signal received by said receiver (10) by varying an attenuation applied by said variable gain attenuator (13) to said received signal.

10. Device (1) according to claim 9, wherein said receiver (10) receiving signals in said second frequency band further includes an amplifier (12) for amplifying signals received via an antenna (15) of said device (1), and a processing portion (14) for

processing signals amplified by said amplifier (12), and wherein said variable gain attenuator (13) is arranged between said amplifier (12) and said processing portion (14).

11. Device (1) according to one of the preceding claims, wherein said attenuating component (13) is integrated with at least one other component (12,14) of said receiver (10) receiving signals in said second frequency band in an integrated circuit (16).

12. Device according to one of claims 1 to 11 wherein said attenuating component is implemented in a dedicated integrated circuit, which dedicated integrated circuit is external to other components of said receiver receiving signals in said second frequency band.

13. Device according to one of the preceding claims, wherein said attenuating component comprises a variable amplifier, wherein said variable amplifier applies at least part of said set attenuation to a signal received by said receiver by varying an amplification factor of an amplification applied by said variable amplifier to said received signal.

14. Device according to one of the preceding claims, further comprising an antenna which is connected to said receiver receiving signals in said second frequency band, wherein said attenuating component comprises a component applying at least part of said set attenuation to a signal received by said receiver by detuning said antenna.

15. Device according to one of the preceding claims, wherein said attenuating component comprises a component applying at least part of said set attenuation to a signal received by said receiver receiving signals in said second frequency band by reducing at least for one component of said receiver a supplied operation voltage.

16. Device (1) according to one of the preceding claims, wherein said receiver (10) receiving signals in said second frequency band further includes a first converting component for converting a received radio frequency signal into an intermediate frequency signal and a second converting component for converting an intermediate frequency signal output by said first converting component into a baseband signal, and wherein said attenuating component (13) applies said set attenuation to a signal received by said receiver (10) at least at one of a radio frequency, an intermediate frequency and a baseband frequency.

17. Device (1) according to one of the preceding claims, further comprising evaluating means (14) adapted to evaluate said attenuated received signals only in case said attenuated received signals have a sufficiently high power level.

18. Component (50) for a device (1) with a communication system transmitter (30) for transmitting signals via a radio interface in a first frequency band and with a receiver (10) for receiving signals via a radio interface in a second frequency band, wherein said receiver (10) includes an attenuation component (13)

for attenuating signals received by said receiver (10), said component comprising a controlling portion setting an attenuation which is applied by an attenuating component (13) to signals received by a receiver (10) to a higher value in case said communication system transmitter (30) is transmitting signals with a power level exceeding a certain value, and setting an attenuation which is applied by said attenuating component (13) to signals received by said receiver (10) to a lower value in case no signal is transmitted by said communication system transmitter (30), wherein said higher value is sufficiently high to prevent an evaluation of said attenuated received signals, when said attenuation is set to said higher value.

19. Method for improving the performance of a receiver (10), which receiver (10) is combined in a single device (1) with a communication system transmitter (30) transmitting signals via a radio interface in a first frequency band, and which receiver (10) receives signals via a radio interface in a second frequency band, said method comprising attenuating a signal received by said receiver (10) with a higher attenuation, in case said communication system transmitter (30) is transmitting signals with a power level exceeding a certain value, and attenuating a signal received by said receiver (10) with a lower attenuation, in case no signal is transmitted by said communication system transmitter (30), wherein said higher attenuation is sufficiently high to prevent an evaluation of received signals attenuated with said higher attenuation.

20. Method according to claim 19, wherein said communication system transmitter (30) amplifies signals for transmission with a variable amplification factor, and wherein signals received by said receiver (10) receiving signals in said second frequency band are attenuated with an attenuation which is increased with an increasing amplification factor used by said communication system transmitter (30) for amplifying signals for transmission.

21. Method according to one of claims 19 or 20, wherein for determining an attenuation to be used, information provided by an automatic gain control for said receiver and information provided by a communication system section including said communication system transmitter is combined.

22. Method according to one of claims 19 to 21, wherein an attenuation to be used is determined based on at least one of the power level of signals transmitted by said communication system transmitter (30) and the power level of signals received by said receiver receiving signals in said second frequency band.

23. Method according to one of claims 19 to 22, wherein an attenuation to be used is determined based on the power level of signals received by a communication system receiver (40) of said device (1) in said first frequency band.

24. Method according to claim 23, wherein an attenuation to be used is determined based in addition on the power level of signals received by said receiver receiving signal in said second frequency band.

25. Method according to one of claims 19 to 24, wherein signals received by said receiver (10) receiving signals in said second frequency band are attenuated by an attenuation applied by a variable gain attenuator (13).

26. Method according to one of claims 19 to 25, wherein signals received by said receiver receiving signals in said second frequency band are attenuated by reducing an amplification applied to said signals.

27. Method according to one of claims 19 to 26, wherein signals received by said receiver receiving signals in said second frequency band are attenuated by detuning an antenna forwarding signals to said receiver.

28. Method according to one of claims 19 to 27, wherein signals received by said receiver receiving signals in said second frequency band are attenuated by reducing at least for one component of said receiver a supplied operation voltage.

29. Method according to one of claims 19 to 28, wherein signals received by said receiver (10) receiving signals in said second frequency band are attenuated at least at one of a radio frequency, an intermediate frequency and a baseband frequency.

30. Method according to one of claims 19 to 29, further comprising evaluating said attenuated received signals only in case said attenuated received signals have a sufficiently high power level.

Amended claims

1. Device (1) comprising:
   - a communication system transmitter (30) for transmitting signals via a radio interface in a first frequency band;
   - a receiver (10) for receiving signals via a radio interface in a second frequency band, said receiver (10) including an attenuation component (13) for attenuating signals received by said receiver (10); and
   - a controlling portion (50) setting an attenuation which is applied by said attenuating component (13) to signals received by said receiver (10) to a higher value in case said communication system transmitter (30) is transmitting signals with a power level exceeding a certain value, and setting an attenuation which is applied by said attenuating component (13) to signals received by said receiver (10) to a lower value in case no signal is transmitted by said communication system transmitter (30), wherein said higher value is sufficiently high to prevent an evaluation of said attenuated received signals, when said attenuation is set to said higher value.

2. Device (1) according to claim 1, wherein said communication system transmitter (30) includes a variable amplifier (32) for amplifying signals which are to be transmitted by said communication system transmitter (30), and wherein said controlling portion (50) sets said attenuation which is applied

by said attenuating component (13) to signals received by said receiver (10) to a value which increases with an increasing amplification factor of an amplification applied by said variable amplifier (32) to signals which are to be transmitted by said communication system transmitter (30).

3. Device according to claim 1 or 2, wherein said device comprises a communication system section including said communication system transmitter and a receiver section including said receiver receiving signals in a second frequency band, and wherein said controlling portion is located in at least one of said communication system section and said receiver section.

4. Device according to claim 3, wherein said controlling portion includes at least a part of a processor provided in said communication system section and at least a part of a processor provided in said receiver section.

5. Device according to one of the preceding claims, wherein said receiver receiving signals in said second frequency band further includes an automatic gain control component, and wherein said controlling portion combines information from said automatic gain control component and information from a communication system section including said communication system transmitter for determining an attenuation to be set.

6. Device (1) according to one of the preceding claims, wherein said controlling portion (13) determines an

attenuation to be set based on at least one of the power level of signals transmitted by said communication system transmitter (30) and the power level of signals received by said receiver receiving signals in said second frequency band.

7. Device (1) according to one of the preceding claims, further comprising a communication system receiver (40) for receiving signals in said first frequency band, wherein said controlling portion (13) determines an attenuation to be set based on the power level of signals received by said communication system receiver (40).

8. Device according to claim 7, wherein said controlling portion determines an attenuation to be set based in addition on the power level of signals received by said receiver receiving signal in said second frequency band.

9. Device (1) according to one of the preceding claims, wherein said attenuating component (13) comprises a variable gain attenuator, and wherein said variable gain attenuator (13) applies at least part of said set attenuation to a signal received by said receiver (10) by varying an attenuation applied by said variable gain attenuator (13) to said received signal.

10. Device (1) according to claim 9, wherein said receiver (10) receiving signals in said second frequency band further includes an amplifier (12) for amplifying signals received via an antenna (15) of said device (1), and a processing portion (14) for

processing signals amplified by said amplifier (12), and wherein said variable gain attenuator (13) is arranged between said amplifier (12) and said processing portion (14).

11. Device (1) according to one of the preceding claims, wherein said attenuating component (13) is integrated with at least one other component (12,14) of said receiver (10) receiving signals in said second frequency band in an integrated circuit (16).

12. Device according to one of claims 1 to 11 wherein said attenuating component is implemented in a dedicated integrated circuit, which dedicated integrated circuit is external to other components of said receiver receiving signals in said second frequency band.

13. Device according to one of the preceding claims, wherein said attenuating component comprises a variable amplifier, wherein said variable amplifier applies at least part of said set attenuation to a signal received by said receiver by varying an amplification factor of an amplification applied by said variable amplifier to said received signal.

14. Device according to one of the preceding claims, further comprising an antenna which is connected to said receiver receiving signals in said second frequency band, wherein said attenuating component comprises a component applying at least part of said set attenuation to a signal received by said receiver by detuning said antenna.

15. Device according to one of the preceding claims, wherein said attenuating component comprises a component applying at least part of said set attenuation to a signal received by said receiver receiving signals in said second frequency band by reducing at least for one component of said receiver a supplied operation voltage.

16. Device (1) according to one of the preceding claims, wherein said receiver (10) receiving signals in said second frequency band further includes a first converting component for converting a received radio frequency signal into an intermediate frequency signal and a second converting component for converting an intermediate frequency signal output by said first converting component into a baseband signal, and wherein said attenuating component (13) applies said set attenuation to a signal received by said receiver (10) at least at one of a radio frequency, an intermediate frequency and a baseband frequency.

17. Device (1) according to one of the preceding claims, further comprising evaluating means (14) adapted to evaluate said attenuated received signals only in case said attenuated received signals have a sufficiently high power level.

18. Component (50) for a device (1) with a communication system transmitter (30) for transmitting signals via a radio interface in a first frequency band and with a receiver (10) for receiving signals via a radio interface in a second frequency band, wherein said receiver (10) includes an attenuation component (13)

for attenuating signals received by said receiver (10), said component comprising a controlling portion setting an attenuation which is applied by an attenuating component (13) to signals received by a receiver (10) to a higher value in case said communication system transmitter (30) is transmitting signals with a power level exceeding a certain value, and setting an attenuation which is applied by said attenuating component (13) to signals received by said receiver (10) to a lower value in case no signal is transmitted by said communication system transmitter (30), wherein said higher value is sufficiently high to prevent an evaluation of said attenuated received signals, when said attenuation is set to said higher value.

19. Method for improving the performance of a receiver (10), which receiver (10) is combined in a single device (1) with a communication system transmitter (30) transmitting signals via a radio interface in a first frequency band, and which receiver (10) receives signals via a radio interface in a second frequency band, said method comprising attenuating a signal received by said receiver (10) with a higher attenuation, in case said communication system transmitter (30) is transmitting signals with a power level exceeding a certain value, and attenuating a signal received by said receiver (10) with a lower attenuation, in case no signal is transmitted by said communication system transmitter (30), wherein said higher attenuation is sufficiently high to prevent an evaluation of received signals attenuated with said higher attenuation.

20. Method according to claim 19, wherein said communication system transmitter (30) amplifies signals for transmission with a variable amplification factor, and wherein signals received by said receiver (10) receiving signals in said second frequency band are attenuated with an attenuation which is increased with an increasing amplification factor used by said communication system transmitter (30) for amplifying signals for transmission.

Gelöscht: 7

21. Method according to one of claims 19 or 20, wherein for determining an attenuation to be used, information provided by an automatic gain control for said receiver and information provided by a communication system section including said communication system transmitter is combined.

Gelöscht: 7
Gelöscht: 18

22. Method according to one of claims 19 to 21, wherein an attenuation to be used is determined based on at least one of the power level of signals transmitted by said communication system transmitter (30) and the power level of signals received by said receiver receiving signals in said second frequency band.

Gelöscht: 7
Gelöscht: 19

23. Method according to one of claims 19 to 22, wherein an attenuation to be used is determined based on the power level of signals received by a communication system receiver (40) of said device (1) in said first frequency band.

Gelöscht: 7
Gelöscht: 0

24. Method according to claim 23, wherein an attenuation to be used is determined based in addition on the power level of signals received by said receiver receiving signal in said second frequency band.

Gelöscht: 1

25. Method according to one of claims 19 to 24, wherein signals received by said receiver (10) receiving signals in said second frequency band are attenuated by an attenuation applied by a variable gain attenuator (13).

Gelöscht: 7
Gelöscht: 2

26. Method according to one of claims 19 to 25, wherein signals received by said receiver receiving signals in said second frequency band are attenuated by reducing an amplification applied to said signals.

Gelöscht: 7
Gelöscht: 3

27. Method according to one of claims 19 to 26, wherein signals received by said receiver receiving signals in said second frequency band are attenuated by detuning an antenna forwarding signals to said receiver.

Gelöscht: 7
Gelöscht: 4

28. Method according to one of claims 19 to 27, wherein signals received by said receiver receiving signals in said second frequency band are attenuated by reducing at least for one component of said receiver a supplied operation voltage.

Gelöscht: 7
Gelöscht: 5

29. Method according to one of claims 19 to 28, wherein signals received by said receiver (10) receiving signals in said second frequency band are attenuated at least at one of a radio frequency, an intermediate frequency and a baseband frequency.

Gelöscht: 7
Gelöscht: 6

30. Method according to one of claims 19 to 29, further comprising evaluating said attenuated received signals only in case said attenuated received signals have a sufficiently high power level.